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POPULAR LIBERATION ARMY

EPL

Agenda

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Signatories

Final Agreement

National Government- Popular

Liberation Army

In the city Bogotá, on the fifteenth day of the month of February 1991, an agreement was reached as a result of the direct peace negotiations initiated on 24th May 1990 between the negotiating committee of the Popular Liberation Army (EPL) and the Ministry for Reconciliation, Normalisation and Rehabilitation on behalf of the national government, taking into account that the National Constituent Assembly is a singular historic setting for political solution to the armed conflict and the achievement of peace amongst Colombians. The objective is to underline the political importance of this process in front of the nation and emphasize its benefits for our democracy. This goes from stressing the causes which motivate the guerrilla organisation mentioned, to the commencing of dialogue as a procedure in order to participate in the process of reforms and democratic modernisation in which the country is living as well as concluding the different prior agreements ratified between the EPL's bilateral negotiating committee and the Ministry for Reconciliation, Normalisation and Rehabilitation, in relation to the topics which have been the matter of discussion.

I

REPRESENTATION IN THE NATIONAL CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

Given the wisdom demonstrated by the demobilisation process of the Popular Liberation Army, who conforming to the outline agreement ratified on 10th January between this guerrilla organisation and the Ministry for Peace, has set 1st March in the coming year to make the surrendering of arms definitive. As authorised by decree 1926 of 24th August 1990, the National Government permits the EPL to have two spokespersons in the National Constituent Assembly from their own ranks, who shall move up to be permanent delegates with full rights in the same assembly the day after complete and definitive surrendering of weapons takes place.

II

PROMOTION OF THE PEACE PROCESS

I. Advertising

- a. The government will finance advertising in four national newspapers and three regional newspapers for a one-page text of which the content and date of publication will be the responsibility of the Popular Liberation Army. Equally, the government will finance a second one-page advertisement in national newspapers on a date to be decided by the EPL, with text which will be of their responsibility and with the objective of presenting the proposals that this organisation has for the National Constituent Assembly to the country.
- b. The government promises to promote the process of negotiation and forward steps in reintegration tasks by means of a special television programme which will be broadcast in the usual slot by the “Audiovisuales”. The ministry will engage the technical and professional services necessary for the production of this programme, the script of which will be prepared by the engaged team and the EPL.
- c. In order to ensure maximum exposure of the special Audiovisuales programme the ministry will place three small advertisements in a national newspaper announcing the title, dates and time of the broadcast.
- d. The government will conduct a meeting between the negotiating committee of the EPL and some members of the accredited diplomatic body in the country.
- e. The government will negotiate with international organisations for two members of the EPL to make a two-month tour of Europe and Latin America.
- f. The government will support the release of 3,000 copies of a book about the history of the EPL during the peace process, the text of which will be the responsibility of this organisation.
- g. To assist the programmes to be undertaken by the “Progress” foundation, the government will grant aid of \$15,000.000.00 for one time only.

2. Houses of democracy

With the objective of contributing to the expansion of the peace process and whilst the demobilisation of the EPL’s armed force materialises, the government will finance the opening of HOUSES OF DEMOCRACY throughout various cities in the country for which the once only sum of \$12,000.000.00 will be transferred into the funds of the “Progress” foundation with legal residence in Bogotá.

The ministry promises to appear before the respective mayors in order to authorise the opening of such headquarters which have the aim of promoting the widening of democracy in Colombia.

1. Regional Operative Committees for promotion of the process

- a. In order to ensure that not only the expansion of the peace process with the EPL but also the civil reintegration projects and product of their strength have the necessary backing of the citizens, civil or commercial organisations and so that the tasks which they have to undertake with these objectives can count on the support of the sectional governments, the ministry will promote the creation of operative committees for promotion of the peace process through governments which are located where the different EPL camps are based and in the departments of Atlántico, Caldas, Guajira, Sucre, Santander, Putumayo and Bogotá town hall. The committees will be composed of an employee from the respective local government, the mayor or his/her delegate, a local employee from the National Rehabilitation Plan and an EPL member whose responsibility will be the initiative of social publicitation and participation of citizens in the peace process.
- b. The ministry will help the governors and mayors so that after the surrendering of weapons, they give the necessary political guarantees for the future political project of the EPL in order to facilitate the organisation of forums, round table discussions, meetings etc by means of media which are at its disposal.

III

PROMOTION OF THE POLITICAL PROJECT

With the intention of contributing to the advertising of the political project derived from the peace process which has been advanced by the EPL and from indicating its definitive agreement for the carrying out and strengthening of Colombian democracy before society in general, the national government promises to finance:

- a. The publication of a full-page advertisement in two national newspapers and in five regional newspapers on a Sunday or a public holiday, according to EPL criteria, containing text which will be the responsibility of the EPL.
- b. The broadcasting of messages about the development of the reintegration process and the future political project of the EPL at a rate of once per camp and twice per week during the break of Colombian television programme “Yellow, Blue and Red”, which will be financed by the National Government and prepared by the technical team from the Audiovisuales channel and the professional contracted by the ministry for this same purpose and

c. in the production and broadcasting of two additional programmes by Audiovisuales so that it is broadcast in the institutional break of the normal schedule, on a date to be decided by the two parties.

IV MONITORS

1. National monitor

A national monitor has been set up with the aim of checking compliance with what was negotiated in the Deed of Commitment signed by the parties on the 10th January 1991. It is composed of a representative from the Episcopal Conference, a member of the international monitor and a political personality from the country agreed upon by the parties so that on 18th and 26th February it visits the camps where the force of the EPL is concentrated. The committee will end its functions on the date that the surrendering of weapons takes place.

2. International monitor

With the aim of assuring that an international committee keeps watch, supervises and certifies compliance with the pacts and the commitments made by the parties in this definitive demobilisation agreement, the EPL and the national government agree to invite the Socialist Socialist Workers' Party and Socialist International to appoint respective committees which monitor the agreed terms for as long as their mission requires. This is restricted to verifying the full and definitive disarmament of the EPL's forces, the evaluation of the guerrilla organisation's citizen reintegration tasks, political guarantees given to the EPL, what is agreed concerning human rights and the carrying out of development plans to which the national government is obliged as a result of this pact.

To obtain the presence of institutions which are neither governmental nor international democratic entities in the act of surrendering weapons, it is agreed that the national government and the EPL will offer invitations to the UN, Amnesty International, the Church and some international entities.

V

LEGALISATION OF THE POLITICAL PARTY

To facilitate the surge of the political project which emanates from the EPL, the ministry commits to negotiate the registration and legalisation of its party before the corresponding authorities, prior to entry of the necessary documentation by the interested parties. It is understood that these negotiations may only commence once the surrendering of weapons has taken place.

VI

LEGAL GUARANTEES

As a result of the negotiated peace process and the subsequent surrendering of weapons and the decision by the force of the EPL to reintegrate itself into civic life and fully participate in national democratic life, the government will grant the abolition of legal action and the sentence provided in decree 213 of 22nd January 1991, for all members of this guerrilla organisation, as long as it concerns political crimes or is in connection with them and conforms to the demands and requirements provided for in the decree mentioned .

For this purpose, the Popular Liberation Army is obliged, before the twentieth (20) day of the current month, to submit the complete list of all military force in its organisation with as much identification as possible and in case it relates to people deprived of their freedom it shall indicate the place of confinement and the authority that knows of the investigation.

In order to support measures and formalities for requests to obtain benefits from decree 213 of 22nd January 1991 before the competent authorities, the government will hire two solicitors for a period of six months who will represent EPL members, paying additionally for the necessary air travel costs in order to fulfil their mission as well as any costs for an extra representative whilst surrendering of arms is in process.

VII

REINTEGRATION PLAN

I. Objective of reintegration

The integration of the EPL into political, economic and social life constitutes an act of reconciliation to validate democratic benefit towards a fairer and more equitable society. The government and the EPL, agree that this process must stimulate a strong shift in public opinion within the nation, characterised by the establishment of political tolerance as the best way to achieve the expansion and preservation of democracy.

The success of economic, social and political reintegration depends as much on a joint effort of the government, society in general and the demobilising guerrilla organisation, as it does on the conviction of each veteran in committing themselves to their reintegration into civic life and their participation in the tasks which it sets until reaching the final objective.

Before the twentieth (20) day of the current month, the Popular Liberation Army is obliged to submit the survey on aptitudes and competences of all members in its organisation, with the aim of preparing educative and productive reintegration projects on this basis.

2. Cover

The reintegration plan will cover the veterans benefitting from decree 213 of 22nd January 1991 who are in the camps and to those who are deprived of freedom. The EPL promises to submit the list of beneficiaries which, on agreement by the parties, will be the base to calculate programmes and costs of reintegration.

3. Criteria

a. In the design and execution of the reintegration plan, the parties will adopt the criteria of taking full advantage from the potential of the EPL political organisation.

b. This will bring about the maximum co-operation between institutions at diverse levels of the government, the civil society and the community in general.

c. The parties will have special power to call on the solidarity of private companies and the international community for the reintegration process to be a success.

It is estimated that reintegration takes place in three stages: transitional, reunion and tracking and evaluation.

2. Transitional phase

Whilst the camps remain, the government and the EPL will commence the transitional phase which will involve different entities of the government, non-governmental organisations, private companies and the organisation which is in the process of demobilising.

It is estimated that this phase will last up to six months after the end of life at the camps and concludes at the start of the meeting phase. Education and training programmes may continue in the reunion phase.

Activities in this transitional phase will be:

a. Non-formal education: the programme of non-formal education consists of teaching the primary and secondary levels of literacy to veterans, according to their current grade of training so that they can develop in other areas of knowledge, in theory as well as in practice. For literacy, the government will publish the necessary books and finance complimentary audiovisual means required for this task. In this way, options are provided for a special primary and secondary validation programme arranged with the Ministry of Education.

b. Technical-professional training and business advice as preparation for the reunion phase consists of receiving technical training to work in offices or to carry out productive projects, preferably with a nature of self-management or economic solidarity. In the design and execution of these programmes, diverse governmental institutions (SENA, ICA, amongst others), regional universities, UPN and centres for study and investigation, non-governmental organisations or foundations amongst others will commit themselves according to the requirements of those demobilised in particular.

c. Civic participation and popular communication. The following activities are incorporated under this programme:

Civic participation and public administration. It concerns training people to take part in public activity of the municipality and the department.

Cultural and recreational: Activities paving the way for creation of recreational areas and thought on regional culture, personal and group perceptions and experiences.

d. After surrendering weapons or an end to camp life, the government will authorise an overall monthly subsidy for the veterans, equivalent to 150 million pesos per month over six months. This amount will be sent by giro to the “Progress” foundation, set-up by the EPL, within the first ten days of each month. The EPL will manage and pay for the reintegration of the beneficiaries, according to the purposes for which this sum is allocated. The term of six months could be extended in case the productive programmes or educative projects were unable to start at the end of the envisaged term for reasons which cannot be attributed to the demobilising organisation or its own members.

e. The government will offer a health service equivalent to full health insurance which will be arranged with a specialised public or private entity. It also offers psychosocial assistance. In the same camps where the force of the EPL is located, the government promises to provide registration in the public birth register, the acquisition of the citizens identity card for those who are in need of these documents and subsequently, to speed up the process for obtaining the military identification and the legal certificate, provided that the interested parties satisfy the legal requirements.

3. Meeting phase

In this phase, the veteran will reunite with civic society upon adopting one of the options planned, making a note that for each person who benefits it will only be possible to choose one of the alternatives indicated in points a, b or c.

a. Start of a productive project, preferably with a nature of self-management or economic solidarity for which the government, apart from offering prior training and necessary technical assistance for the success of the project, is offering a loan of two million pesos for each person reintegrated, awarded once only with an annual interest of 12% fixed for two years. The loan is payable over four years starting from its authorisation and an annual moratorium interest of 24%. In the case of

agribusiness or rural projects, the acquisition of land for the agricultural reform in force can be resorted to if necessary. In the case of complementary loans, sources of soft loans can be looked into.

b. Start or continuation of higher education (technical, technological, university or post graduate) for those who have the necessary academic pre-requisite and opt for this path to reintegration . In this case, a credit limit which will be managed by the ICETEX will be established in order to meet the costs of registration and maintenance of the beneficiaries, two million pesos for each one that will be paid with the same fixed interests as the projects considered in point (a), notwithstanding the additional credit that the ICETEX may provide the reintegrated party for studies, thus these procedures facilitate its link to the university without detriment to university autonomy.

c. Work placement in the public or private sector for which the government will take the necessary measures.

4. Tracking and evaluation phase

a. To design and apply the reintegration plan, the government will create an office for reintegration and normalisation with funds required for this purpose, as it will have special delegations in Medellín, Montería, Cartagena, Apartadó, Cúcuta and Pereira. The government will incorporate EPL members into the reintegration teams to guarantee continuity of the bilateral work in the design and execution of programmes.

b. The National Council of Normalisation will be increased in order to allow a delegate designated by the EPL and the same will occur with the Regional Councils of Normalisation in the cases of Santander, Antioquia, Risaralda and Tolima. A Regional Council of Normalisation will be created for Córdoba, Bolívar, Putumayo and Guajira.

c. Executive Fund Director for the application of reintegration and rehabilitation programmes and the representative of the EPL in itself, will submit a monthly report to the National Council of Normalisation on the progress of commitments, informing that it will be sent to the monitoring and checking entities defined by the parties.

d. To support and develop the reintegration plan, the EPL, in turn, will channel its energy through the “Progress” foundation which can raise funds nationally and internationally for the same purpose.

VIII

SECURITY PLAN

The security service and the teams that the government offers within this agreement, will be of a temporary nature, envisaged to be in function for necessities and fixed priorities of protection to veterans and EPL leaders according to precise and periodic evaluation of risks made jointly. In principle, the agreement of the security plan lasts for six months effective from the date that weapons are surrendered. At the end of these six months, this plan will be revised in an overall form by the parties. Nevertheless, there will be a full periodic review at least once a month to make the adjustments recommended by experience, according to the organisation mentioned below.

2

The material resources that are allocated in the protection are the property of the government and will return to the free disposal of the ministry or security services, depending on the case, if, after a reasonable time has elapsed, it is deemed that the risks in one or all levels of protection have been reduced.

3

For security reasons, three levels have been established for the leaders most exposed to risks:

LEVEL ONE A, or level of maximum priority, consisting of the protection of four national leaders at major risk. This will consist of 4 teams, each one composed of two vehicles: a driver and guards in the main area, a driver and guards in the accompanying cart, with each team being provided with respective radio telephony equipment, bulletproof vests and armaments. Responsibility for security at this level is delegated to DAS and to this effect, the ministry will assign material resources for those lacking the DAS.

LEVEL TWO consists of the protection of nine leaders and veterans with national leadership and high risk. Each leader will be protected by a security team, consisting of one vehicle with a driver and guard as well as complementary resources.

LEVEL THREE consists of the protection of approximately 28 veterans who are regional leaders and are exposed to predictable risk owing to the nature of the conflict prior to this agreement. For the security of this group, a total of 15 vehicles is assigned with one driver and a guard in each one, teams which will be distributed to the coffee-growing regions of Medellín, Valle, Apartadó, Córdoba, Barranquilla, Cartagena, Guajira, Los Santanderes and Bogotá according to necessities. For this level, the security team will be composed of various leaders for whom the EPL promises to agree adequate scheduling and co-ordination.

It is understood that the total of vehicles to be allocated for the security plan is 32, amongst which 12 were given to the national spokespersons of the EPL which must be redistributed at the convenience of this organisation from the start of this agreement.

5

To complement the task of the guards, the EPL may designate security personnel from their own ranks at the different levels, for whom the security organisations will give special training, providing them with identification and facilitating measures to obtain safe-conduct for the carrying of weapons.

6

The EPL, will designate a national chief of security who will form part of the Committee for the Security Plan, appointed to the National Council of Normalisation on the criteria that security for members of the organisation is of mixed responsibility.

7

To facilitate journeys of the protected leaders, the Special Fund for Peace Law 35 from 1982, allowing the presentation of proof of the law, will the pay travel expenses of the DIJIN guards assigned for their protection.

8

The government promises to provide 40 bullet-proof vests for use by the EPL members who will be protected in compliance with the agreed plan.

9

The surveillance of the venues is to be negotiated with the national police.

IX

HUMAN RIGHTS AND FACTORS OF VIOLENCE

Fundamental objective of the present agreement is to discourage the factors leading to violence which have manifested themselves in areas where the EPL are present, looking for the participation of the community in the plan for solutions and its implementation, in order to effectively consolidate peace conditions.

I

To fulfil this objective, the parties agree to create a Committee for the Prevention of Violence which will be composed of five people of renowned competence as well as character and reputation, appointed by consensus to ensure an efficient and elevated level of treatment of this problem. This committee will gather on 26th February of this year and will function for a period six months.

The functions of the Committee for the Prevention of Violence will be:

- a. To carry out diagnoses and recommendations in the matter of violence and violation of human rights in each one of the regions which will be defined by the Bilateral Committee on Human Rights and Factors of Violence, bringing special attention to phenomena such as paramilitarism and drug trafficking.
 - b. To contribute to the setting up of regional forums for the Prevention of Violence, the object of which will be let the community and its organisations participate in the analysis of violence and the building of strategies to eradicate this phenomenon in order to consolidate a climate of democratic co-existence in the different regions.
 - c. To carry out a report to the Colombian government that summarises the results of its work and makes general political recommendations and concrete cases to be dealt with.
3. The national government promises to support and finance the work of the committee which nevertheless can count on the backing and collaboration of international organisations and non-governmental organisations. The national government promises to consider and deal with the recommendations made by this committee.
 4. The national government will promote the participation and support of the Public Prosecutor and departmental and municipal governments both for the work of the committee and in the promotion and defence of human rights in the regions. Equally, it will bring about the participation of the community and its different organisations within the activities carried out by the committee.
 5. By means of the Foundation for Support to Family Members of Victims of Violence, those affected by acts of political violence will be attended to through programmes which are to be defined and carried out between the foundation mentioned and the Bilateral Committee of Human Rights and Factors of Violence.
 6. The government reaffirms its favourable disposition to the application of International Humanitarian Law and to the establishment of mechanisms for the observance and fulfilment of rights and guarantees deriving from it.

X

REGIONAL PLANS

I. Characteristics

- a. The government and the EPL agree to carry out regional plans in those areas of influence where the EPL had armed presence. The overall amount for these plans will be

\$2 thousand million pesos, which will be applied once only with resources coming from the national budget.

b. The purpose of these plans will of benefit to the communities and encourage the general socio-economic development of the regions.

c. It will look to channel its own resources into governmental entities which will speed up the programmes in the regions. Furthermore, it will look to link the departmental and municipal authorities.

d. It will promote the participation of private companies in the financing of projects it identifies. Equally it links community organisations and will invite non-governmental organisations and the academic sector to participate.

2. Methodology

a. The Bilateral Committee will determine the municipalities which will be the object of regional plans and will define the budgetary priorities.

b. The projects and concrete works to be carried out are will be decided in each municipality by means of a participation exercise. For such a purpose, extraordinary sessions of the Council for Rehabilitation will take place in the municipalities which form part of the National Rehabilitation Plan, PNR. These sessions, by their constitution are an opportune space for community participation. The EPL will participate in these councils and together with a government delegate will explain the scope of the proposal.

c. In the municipalities that are not covered by the PNR, Municipal Councils for Peace will be set-up as a mechanism of participation and decision making within the community, presided over by the municipal mayor and with a similar structure and procedure to that of the Councils for Rehabilitation. In the same way, the EPL, will participate in these councils and together with a government delegate will explain the scope of the proposals.

XI

PROCEDURE FOR SURRENDERING WEAPONS

With the objective of making the surrender of weapons definite from this coming 1st March, the Popular Liberation Army, as envisaged in this agreement, is obliged to enter a complete list, by no later than the twentieth of February, of war material and uniforms for private use by the armed forces that it has in its power. The list of weapons will consist of their type, their brand, calibre and serial number, and that of the explosives, their type and quantity.

It would be best if the uniforms of private use by the armed forces will be unused and the explosives detonated in the respective camps. At each camp, the weapons will be handed over to the International Monitoring Committee who will keep them until the moment of their destruction.

The final act of surrendering will take place on 1st March in this present year, at locations to be agreed upon by the parties in opportune time.

The list of weapons, explosives, uniforms for private use by the armed forces, in addition to war material in the power of the EPL, will be handed over to a representative of the International Monitoring who will take charge of passing it on to the Ministry for Peace.

On 1st March, the government will give safe-conducts to members of the EPL for crimes established in Decree 213 of 22nd January 1991 based on the list presented by the same organisation.

FOR PROOF THE FOLLOWING SIGN:

For the national government

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Government minister

JESUS A. BEJARANO AVILA

Presidential adviser

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